GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:345
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014
SHORTAGE OF LIFE SAVING DRUGS
Biju Shri P. K.

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the life saving drugs arebeing sold at high prices due to shortage/insufficient supply of such drugs in thecountry;

(b) if so, the details thereof and thereaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether there is any mechanism forobtaining the information regarding stock/availability of life saving drugs from timeto time;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the estimated stock/production of the said drugs in the country and if not, the reasonstherefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be takenby the Government for ensuring supply/production of life saving drugs in adequatequantity to meet the demand in thecountry?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.345 FOR ANSWER ON 18.2.2014 REGARDING SHORTAGE OF LIFE SAVING DRUGS

(a) to (e) "Life saving drugs" are not defined in the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). However, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has not received any specific report that life saving drugs are being sold at high prices due to shortage/ insufficient supply of such drugs in the country. NPPA monitors shortages & availability of drugs on the basis of monthly reports received from State Drugs Control Administration and also complaints, if any, received from individuals etc. On receipt of such reports, NPPA immediately takes up the matter with the concerned manufacturer and advice them to rush the stock in the affected area.

Further, Para 21
(i) of DPCO, 2013 provides for submission of quarterly return in respect of production/ import and sales of scheduled medicines (NLEM medicines) and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients contained in scheduled formulations as stated in Form- III of the said order by the manufacturer/ importer/marketer. Any manufacturer of scheduled formulation, intending to discontinue any scheduled formulation from the market is required to issue a public notice and intimate the NPPA in Form-IV of DPCO, 2013. NPPA is empowered to direct the manufacturer to continue with required level of production or import for a period upto one year, in the public interest.